

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Twenty-First Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.2% (312) reside in the Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (59) of Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 73.7% of admissions from the Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District were male and 26.2% were female.
- Over 60.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 92.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 0.9% were black non-Latino, 2.2% were Latino, and 3.8% were other racial categories.
- 65.3% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 16.3% were married, and 11.8% reported not to be married now.
- 18.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.6% completed high school, and 30.4% had more than high school education.
- 46.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 8.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.5% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	283	247	73	76	49	72	49
FY '96	274	219	83	69	50	87	53
FY '97	294	237	68	67	47	88	51
FY '98	307	248	68	58	46	82	54
FY '99	337	267	83	76	42	92	77
FY '00	359	268	101	81	41	136	111
FY '01	312	227	97	63	29	121	93

- Since FY 1995, residents of Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 40%, while heroin use increased by 68%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use increased by 32%, while alcohol and cocaine use decreased by 8% and 17%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Twenty-first Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	46.7%	34.6%	6.7%	3.8%	0.9%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin and crack was lower within your District.